

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 11 and 18-41 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 11 and 29 are amended, and claims 39-41 are added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 11 and 18-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,001,842 to Suzuki et al. (hereinafter “Suzuki”) in view of Im et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0067117 (hereinafter “Im”), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,168,450 to Yamauchi et al. (hereinafter “Yamauchi”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

More specifically, Applicant maintains the position that Suzuki, Im and Yamauchi are each non-analogous art, and thus not properly applied in a rejection of the present application, as set forth in the Amendment filed May 2, 2006. More specifically, the shadow mask 25 disclosed by Suzuki is used in a CRT to direct beams onto a coated portion of a panel so as to generate a desired image. One of ordinary skill in the art understands that this type of shadow mask is not used in an electroluminescent device, let alone to block adjacent areas during deposition of organic material, as is the mask set forth in the present application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Suzuki is in a different field of endeavor than the masks set forth in the present application, and thus is not reasonably pertinent to solving the various issues set forth therein. Im and Yamauchi each suffer deficiencies similar to Suzuki in this respect.

However, even if one were to improperly apply Suzuki, Im and Yamauchi in a rejection of the present application, Suzuki, Im and Yamauchi, either alone or in combination, still neither disclose or suggest at least the features recited in independent claims 1 and 11, let alone the

respective claimed combinations of features.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a mask for use during fabrication of an organic electroluminescent device, including a plurality of bridges located between adjacent slots of a plurality of strip-type slots, wherein a thickness of the mask in areas corresponding to each of the plurality of bridges is less than a thickness of the mask in areas of the mask having no angled surface portions. Independent claim 11 recites similar features in varying scope. Suzuki neither discloses nor suggests at least such features, let alone the respective claimed combinations of features, and Im and Yamauchi, either alone or in combination, fail to overcome the deficiencies of Suzuki.

Suzuki discloses a shadow mask 25 for use with a CRT. The shadow mask 25 includes rectangular apertures 31 separated by bridge portions 32. As can be seen in Figures 2, 3, 5, 8 and 10 of Suzuki, the mask 25 appears to have a constant thickness, with the bridge portions 32 having the same thickness as the other portions of the mask 25. Thus, Suzuki neither discloses nor suggests that a thickness of the bridge portions 32 is less than a thickness of the other areas of the shadow mask 25, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

Im discloses a tension mask assembly 10 for a CRT formed of a metal foil 11, including a plurality of slots 13 formed between a plurality of strips 12, with real bridges 14 supporting the slots 13, and dummy bridges 15 connecting the strips 12 and the slots 13. Im suffers deficiencies similar to those of Suzuki, in that Im neither discloses nor suggests that a thickness of the either the real bridges 14 or the dummy bridges 15 is less than a thickness of the other areas of foil 11 which form the tension mask 10, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

Yamauchi discloses a shadow mask 10 including a plurality of slots 14 connected by a plurality of bridges 15 whose inner surfaces are inclined in parallel with electron beams passing therethrough. Yamauchi suffers deficiencies similar to those of Suzuki and Im, in that Yamauchi neither discloses nor suggests that a thickness of the bridges 15 is less than a thickness of the other areas of the shadow mask 10, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 11 are allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki, Im and Yamauchi should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 4, 5 and 18-27 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1 and 11, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claims 29-33, 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki and Yamauchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,485,884 to Wolk et al. (hereinafter "Wolk"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth above, Applicant maintains the position that Suzuki and Yamauchi are non-analogous art, and thus may not be properly applied in a rejection of the present application. It is further submitted that, as set forth in the Amendment filed May 2, 2006, Wolk is also non-analogous art, and thus suffers deficiencies similar to those of Suzuki and Yamauchi in this respect. However, even if Suzuki, Yamauchi and Wolk were improperly applied in such a rejection, such a combination still neither discloses nor suggests at least the features recited in independent claim 29, let alone the claimed combination of features.

Independent claim 29 is directed to a mask for use during deposition of a luminescent layer of an organic electroluminescent device, including a plurality of strip-type slots, wherein a

thickness of the mask in areas of the mask positioned between adjacent slots is less than a thickness of the mask in areas of the mask having no angled surface portions. As set forth above, Suzuki and Yamauchi, either alone or in combination, neither disclose nor suggest at least such features, or the claimed combination of features. Further, Wolk is merely cited as allegedly teaching slot alignment, and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Suzuki and Yamauchi. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 29 is allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki, Yamauchi and Wolk should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 30-33, 35 and 36 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 29, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claims 28, 34 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki and Im, or alternatively, over Suzuki, Yamauchi and Wolk in view of Korean Patent Publication No. 2001-087952 (hereinafter “KR ‘952”). The rejection(s) are respectfully traversed.

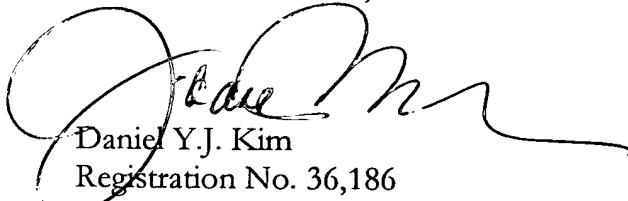
Dependent claims 28, 34 and 37 are allowable over Suzuki, Im, Yamauchi and Wolk, either alone or in combination, at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 1, 22 and 29, from which they respectively depend, as well as for their added features. Further, KR ‘952 is merely cited as allegedly teaching shapes of strip-type slots, and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Suzuki, Im, Yamauchi and Wolk. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 28, 34 and 37 are allowable over the applied combination(s), and thus the rejection(s) of claims 28, 34 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Suzuki, Im, Yamauchi, Wolk and KR ‘952 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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